

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 3-10 and added claims 11-14. Thus, claims 1, 2 and 11-14 are now pending in the application. In response to the January 27, 2005 Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claim 2 is objected to because the Examiner maintains that the claim recites a term which lacks an antecedent basis. By this Amendment, Applicant has claim 2 to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to claim 2.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rich (U.S. Patent No. 4,102,040) in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,382,859; hereafter "Huang"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious in view of Rich.

With regard to independent claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Rich discloses all of the features of the claimed invention except the cylindrical stator core being made of iron, which the Examiner maintains is disclosed by Huang. As noted by the Examiner, Rich discloses forming a cylindrical stator core by welding together end faces of the core (see Fig. 8, and column 9, lines 48-52). However, Applicant respectfully submits that Rich does not teach or suggest a cylindrical iron core which includes "a welded portion in which abutting end faces of the cylindrical iron core are only partially welded together at an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the welded portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core", as required by amended

independent claim 1. For example, as shown in Fig. 9 of the present application, the stator core 13 is formed in the shape of annulus ring by partially welding abutting end surfaces 16 of the core 13 at a point C on an outer circumferential face 13a of the core 13, wherein the abutting surfaces 16 have a lower radial crushing strength than the other portions of the core 13.¹

By this Amendment, Applicant has added new claims 11 and 12 which are directed to the embodiment shown in Fig. 15 and new claims 13 and 14 which are directed to the embodiment shown in Fig. 16. As shown in Fig. 15, a stator core 2 includes four notch portions 20 provided as linear slits in an inner wall surface of slots 4 so that the core 2 has a lower radial crushing strength at notch portions 20. As shown in Fig. 16, a plurality of concave portions 7 are provided around an outer circumferential face 2a of the stator core 2, wherein four of the concave portions 21 have a larger depth than the other concave portions 21 so that the core 2 has a lower radial crushing strength at the larger concave portions 21.²

With regard to claim 11, Applicant respectfully submits that Rich does not teach or suggest:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core and a notch portion provided in an inner wall surface of one of the slots..., wherein the notch portion comprises a linear slit extending only partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

¹ See specification at page 12, line 15 - page 13, line 2.

² See specification at page 15, line 19 - page 16, line 18.

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Similarly, with regard to claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that Rich does not teach or suggest:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, and a plurality of first concave portions and a second concave portion provided in an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core ..., wherein a depth of the second concave portion is larger than a depth of said first concave portions so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the second concave portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11 and 13, as well as dependent claims 2, 12, and 14, should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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